

A note from

SUNSHINE PERIOD

Mr. Tom [redacted] [redacted]

Dear Tom

Re: Ticket # 02-277

I am against allowing
corporations to take control of our
media! By allowing a few
corporations to control - to
own our media, Mr. Powell
is placing us behind Stonewall
in separating. He is representing the
rich and powerful and feeling to
represent "the people" -

Sincerely,

Tom [redacted]



Northern
Leopard frog

List 2

www.muf.org

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JUN 3 - 2003

FCC - MAILROOM

FAX COVER SHEET

2914 East 32nd Street, Suite 203
 Joplin, Missouri 64804
 Phone number
 417-781-1233
 Fax number 417-781-1239

02-297

Send to: FCC Commissioners	From: Larry McIlrath
Attention: Honorable Michael Powell, Chairman	Date: 06/03/2003
Office location:	Office location: Joplin
Fax number: 202-418-0188	Phone number: 417-781-0830

☐ Urgent ☐ Reply ASAP ☐ Please comment ☐ Please review ☐ For your information

Total pages, including cover: 2

Comments:

Dear Commissioners

I have long intended to write to you about the FCC's limited regulation of public airwaves. I probably should write my local congressman also about the FCC's limited control in recent years.

It seems to me there are 4 times the number of television commercials since public airwave channels decided to compete with cable televisions cheap advertising.

Being a business owner I know commercial advertising spots are at an all time low cost as low as \$20 a spot. This makes watching programming unbearable when commercial interruption seems unreasonable and unregulated. What can I do to request some reasonable restriction on advertising interruption of news and public viewing?

Second, I have noticed the influx of cheap vulgar content in radio and television. I believe our society suffers from tabloid and trash TV and Shock television. Do you have any control over viewing content as it seems you did years ago.

Radio has morning programming talk shows that are vulgar to say the very least and are setting a Howard Stern trend. They are aired early in the morning and are worse than I hear in bars and saloons. Does the first amendment allow any venue of filth on public airwaves.

The number of attorneys or ambulance chasers commercials is creating a tremendous liability for insurance companies as my brother who owns a small furniture store said if I go out of business it will be because I couldn't afford the insurance.

These issues go beyond reason as news sources and advertisers malign parental values and social issues.

My twin brothers son told his mother it is your fault I am not black. It seems media has created an environment of focus for women and minority's which goes beyond creating respect for individuals of different races but a fascination with minorities and liberal views. I had one friend tell me he is amazed liberals have so much power in the media.

Do conservatives have equal rights? I think not.

Our area of Missouri is becoming rapid with methamphetamine users.

That's entertainment??? Can't you require some station responsibility for advertisements or programming that does some good...benefits society....has the public welfare in mind.

How can I help make things better? At least for kids sake.

Last I have noticed and am deeply concerned at the number of corporations that control television and radio in locations across the country... lets cap ownership!!

Sincerely,

Larry McIlrath

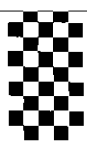
SUNSHINE PERIOD 05 3417

Please allow more time for public debate on the proposed upcoming rule change. Thus far public involvement in this decision has been minimal, while the impact it will have on the public will be great. This rule change could lead to even more media consolidation, further restricting the number of view points which people have access to. Right now, the number of companies I can get my news from is about the same as the number of companies I can buy gasoline from. If this rule change passes, and the anticipated mergers take place, my choices for media consumption could be closer in number to my choices in soda pop. We need to encourage a greater diversity of viewpoints, not narrow them down.

Gene Hudnall
Apt 250H
1602 Green Mountain Dr
Little Rock, AR 72211

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JUN 03 2003



SUNSHINE PERIOD

02-3717

FAX 1-202-418-2801

MAY 03 2003

Dear Mr. Powell,

I am joining with the citizens of our nation who object to your intention to change the ownership rules for broadcast media. Your interests as a representative of the "public interest" should be with maintaining a free and unbiased print and broadcast media.

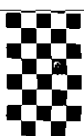
Any move that encourages a conflict of interest, and a trend away from multi-sided discourse representative of the diversity and views of our nation, should not be considered. Public opinion should remain representative of its citizens. Competition helps to ensure this. Remember the "Public Interest". Individual participation should be encouraged. Diverse opinion should be honored. These cornerstones of our culture will suffer greatly from more concentration of ownership. Your honest representation lies in the "public interest", not in the interest of those you are trusted to regulate.

You should be obliged to the American citizens to delay the rule change and allow time to have a democratic debate and review about the consequences of the proposed changes. Allow a real public debate on this issue of massive importance to the public.

Sincerely Yours,

Samuel F. McNeil and Jane W. McNeil
10190 Iron Mill Road
Richmond VA 23235

May 30, 2003



SUNSHINE PERIOD

05377

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

Please deliver this facsimile to:

CHAIRMAN MICHAEL POWELL

RECEIVED
JUN 03 2003

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Message-Id: <200305301928.h4UJSkF18130@sinkhole.tpc.int>

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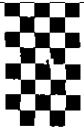
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washingtonpost.com
Monopoly or Democracy?

By Ted Turner

Friday, May 30, 2003; Page A23

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JUN 03 2003

On Monday the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is expected to adopt dramatic rule changes that will extend the market dominance of the five media corporations that control most of what Americans read, see and hear. I am a major shareholder in the largest of those five corporations, yet -- speaking only for myself, and not for AOL Time Warner -- I oppose these rules. They will stifle debate, inhibit new ideas and shut out smaller businesses trying to compete. If these rules had been in place in 1970, it would have been virtually impossible for me to start Turner Broadcasting or, 10 years later, to launch CNN.

The FCC will vote on several proposals, including raising the cap on how many TV stations can be owned by one corporation and allowing single corporations to own TV stations and newspapers in the same market.

If a young media entrepreneur were trying to get started today under these proposed rules, he or she wouldn't be able to buy a UHF station, as I did. They're all bought up. But even if someone did manage to buy a TV station, that wouldn't be enough. To compete, you have to have good programming and good distribution. Today both are owned by conglomerates that keep the best for themselves and leave the worst for you -- if they sell anything to you at all. It's hard to compete when your suppliers are owned by your competitors. We bought MGM, and we later sold Turner Broadcasting to Time Warner, because we had little choice. The big were getting bigger. The small were disappearing. We had to gain access to programming to survive.

Many other independent media companies were swallowed up for the same reason -- because they didn't have everything they needed under their own roof, and their competitors did. The climate after Monday's expected FCC decision will encourage even more consolidation and be even more inhospitable to smaller businesses.

Why should the country care? When you lose small businesses, you lose big ideas. People who own their own businesses are their own bosses. They are independent thinkers. They know they can't compete by imitating the big guys, they have to innovate. So they are less obsessed with earnings than they are with ideas. They're willing to take risks. When, on my initiative, Turner Communications (now Turner Broadcasting) bought its first TV station, which at the time was losing \$50,000 a month, my board strongly objected. When TBS bought its second station, which was in even worse shape than the first, our accountant quit in protest.

Large media corporations are far more profit-focused and risk-averse. They sometimes confuse short-term profits and long-term value. They kill local programming because it's expensive, and they push national programming because it's cheap -- even if it runs counter to local interests and community values. For a corporation to launch a new idea, you have to get the backing of executives who are obsessed with quarterly earnings and afraid of being fired for an idea that fails. They often prefer to sit on the sidelines waiting to buy the businesses or imitate the models of the risk-takers who succeed. (Two large media corporations turned down my invitation to invest in the launch of CNN.)

That's an understandable approach for a corporation -- but for a society, it's like overfishing the oceans. When the smaller businesses are gone, where will the new ideas come from? Nor does this trend bode well for new ideas in our democracy -- ideas that come only from diverse news and vigorous reporting. Under the new rules, there will be more consolidation and more news shaming. That means laying off reporters or, in other words, downsizing the workforce that helps us see our problems and makes us think about solutions. Even more troubling are the warning signs that large media corporations -- with massive market power -- could abuse that power by slanting news coverage in ways that serve their political or financial interests. There is always the danger that news organizations can push positive stories to gain friends in government, or unleash negative stories on